Dumping of Tear-Gas Grenades by U.S. Embassy

6645. SHRI: K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S. Embassy in New Delhi dumped U.S. made tear-gas grenades in the Ridge area, New Delhi and that these shells were emitting foul smoke, as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated the 23rd March, 1994; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the U.S. Embassy had brought these grenades into the country; and on what grounds it had discarded them and whether Government of India had given the necessary permission for their import and disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir

(b) Government had given permission to the US Marine Security Guards to use the Firing Range of Rajputana Rifles Centre between 0730 and 1400 hrs. on March 1, 1994. The users had burnt some expired teargas cannisters in a pit in the process of destroying them. The pits were covered with earth thereafter. This activity did not creat any hazard or irritation to residents of nearby inhabited areas. On a subsequent date, some local inhabitants while retrievin waste/metal parts from the range probably removed certain burnt cannisters from the pit, which caused irritation to the handlers. Upon the matter being reported to the Army, necessary measures were taken to dispose off all burnt cannistors bevond the reach of civil inhabitants.

Anti-India Propaganda Material

6646. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a startling news report which appeared in the 'Sunday Observer' of 20th March, 1994 to the effect that despite strictest possible security arrangements, anti-Indian propaganda material found its way into the rooms of some of the accompanying officials in the P.M.'s entourage in London recently including one in P.M.'s hotel room also; and

(b) if so, whether an inquiry has been gone into and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some anti-India propaganda material related to Kashmir was delivered in the rooms of the members of media party accompanying the Prime Minister on his visit to the UK. However, the propaganda material did not reach the rooms of members of the official delegation accompanying the Prime Minister or the part of the hotel where the Prime Minister was staying. As such there was no security implication and no inquiry was called for.

Kohinoor Diamond

6647. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the King of diamonds "Kohinoor" is back with India; and;

(b) if not, what are Government plans to retrive it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Government approaches this question on the basis of the historical background and the realistic possibilities